Opening of Anganwadi Kendras

*175. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided for opening up new anganwadi kendras in the country in order to create employment avenues during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the number of posts proposed to be created from this scheme in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) the number of anganwadi kendras proposed to be opened up in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) whether any funds have been allocated to the State for completion of this scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the target of opening up anganwadi kendras in the State is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Anganwadi kendras are set up under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is not an employment generating scheme. ICDS Scheme is a service delivery programme which aims at growth and development of children (0-6 years). Pregnant women and lactating mothers are also covered under the Scheme.

In pursuance of Government's commitment as enunciated in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), 466 additional ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) have been sanctioned in 2005-2006. Of these, 4 ICDS projects and 10894 AWCs are in Himachal Pradesh.

Further expansion to increase the outreach of the scheme to 173 ICDS Projects, 107274 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and 25961 Mini-AWCs is also under active consideration. This includes 1 ICDS Project and 142 AWCs for Himachal Pradesh.

(d) and (e) During current financial year, Grants-in-aid of Rs. 2015.46 lakh has been released to Himachal Pradesh for implementation of the Scheme.

(f) It normally takes about one year from the date of sanction for a new project/AWC to become operational. It is, therefore, expected that these centres would become operational by 31.3.2007.

Health care in pregnancy and children

*176. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a paper presented by the Centre for Social Research in a recent workshop organized by UNCEF addresses the grave problem of dismal health care that women receive throughout pregnancy and child birth often resulting in a high number of pregnancy related deaths;

(b) whether india in 2000 registered 1,37,000 maternal deaths per year, highest in world;

(c) whether the paper suggested that "safe motherhood" as a concept should be promoted by dual focus of attention — women's empowerment and improved healthcare acess and delivery; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to reduce pregnancy related deaths in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the report titled 'Maternal Mortality, 2000' published by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, 1,36,000 maternal deaths took place in India in the year 2000. However, as per estimates of Registrar Genral of India, Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) has declined from 407 per 1,00,000 live births in 1998 to 301 per 1,00,000 live births in 2003. This translates into an absolute number of approximately 77,000 maternal deaths per year.

MMR, as estimated in respect of major States by the Registrar General of India is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development aim at